

American Friends of Afghanistan

Supported by an FY 1985 Endowment grant to the American Friends of Afghanistan (AFA), the Cultural Council of the Afghan Resistance (CCAR) undertook a pilot program to provide educational opportunities for Afghans living in areas of their country not under effective control of the Soviet invaders. This program included the preparation of 60 textbooks and other curricular materials including cassettes, the setting up of 10 schools and 20 adult literacy centers inside Afghanistan, the training of Afghans in the use of videocamera equipment, and the establishment of a documentation center. The initial program has been quite successful, and the AFA has received additional support from the Endowment to continue the project with a considerable expansion in the number of schools and literacy centers.

The Cultural Council of the Afghan Resistance (CCAR) is an organization dedicated to preserving the cultural values of the Afghan people in the face of a Soviet effort to achieve total domination over them. Endowment support is assisting the continuation of the work of CCAR's documentation center, further videocamera training for six Afghans, and the printing of additional textbooks. This work includes an increased production and distribution of audio-cassettes, at a level of 10 one-hour cassettes per month. Most important, it involves a major expansion in the number of schools and adult literacy centers within Afghanistan.

The American Friends of Afghanistan (AFA), administrator of the project, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in September 1979 to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Its president is Dr. Thomas Goutierre, Director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha, the leading U.S. academic center on Afghanistan.

The Cultural Council of the Afghan Resistance, based in Islamabad, Pakistan, is headed by Sabahuddin Kushkaki. Kushkaki, a U.S.-educated journalist, is a former head of the Journalism School of the University of Kabul, publisher of a Kabul newspaper and Afghan Minister of Information and Culture during Afghanistan's last years of constitutional government.

The American Friends of Afghanistan received a grant of \$250,000 awarded by the National Endowment for Democracy Board of Directors on June 6, 1986.